

**Claims****Claims 1-17. (Canceled)**

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DEC 17 2007

18. (Previously Presented) A method for the detachment of a tube blank from a support mandrel, comprising:

inserting a device at one end of the support mandrel; and  
introducing a medium between the blank and the support mandrel by the device.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein an end of the blank which is opposite the device is sealed off from the support mandrel.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising providing a closure element on the blank in order to ensure complete detachment of the blank from the support mandrel.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the blank is detached from the support mandrel by expanding the blank away from the surface of the support mandrel.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, further comprising introducing liquid or powdery separating agents with the medium.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed 18, further comprising, after detachment of the blank from the support mandrel, pushing out the blank from the support mandrel by the medium or the support mandrel is moved out.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed 18, further comprising, before the introduction of the medium, inserting the blank on the support mandrel into a sleeve for limiting the expansion of the blank.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising fastening the device to the sleeve in such a way that the blank is clamped in place between the sleeve and the device.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising generating a vacuum in the sleeve.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the medium penetrates only between the blank and the support mandrel and thus detaches the blank from the support mandrel.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising providing a non-stick surface provided on an interior surface of the sleeve.

29.-32. (Withdrawn)

33. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for the detachment of a tube blank from a support mandrel, comprising:

a device for introducing a medium at one end of the support mandrel, the device being arranged between the blank and the support mandrel; and  
style="padding-left: 40px;">a feeding element provided at the device and for introducing the medium between the blank and the support mandrel.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising a sleeve which is arranged around the blank and is closed at least at one end by the device, the blank being sealed off from the support mandrel at the other end.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the sleeve includes a first part hinged to a second part along a longitudinal extent.

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36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the device is fastened to the sleeve.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising a closing mechanism for closing the first part or the second part of the sleeve when the blank and support mandrel are inserted therein.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein an inner diameter of the sleeve is larger than an outer diameter of the blank thus providing provision for expansion of the blank.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the sleeve is cylindrical or contoured.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising a closure device at an end of the blank, remote from the device.

41. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 34, wherein the sleeve has a variable in length via attachment pieces.

42.- 46. (Withdrawn)

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